

Moines team to make sure no food goes to waste. They emphasize the use of local foods and community gardens, and have a food rescue system to make sure restaurants and grocery stores don't throw away good food. Their work has also proved fruitful as they have supported 90 community, school, and faith based edible gardens.

One of the organization's biggest projects, Operation Fresh Produce Drop, started in April 2020 in response to the strains put on the food system due to unexpected closures and an increase in need for food. The Operation Fresh Produce Drop initiative began as a way to help move excess bulk products from wholesale distributors while also supporting organizations serving those affected by the pandemic. This evolved into distributing almost 90,000 food boxes through the USDA Farms to Families food box program. With a team of 3 full-time staff and no warehouse space or necessary equipment, Operation Fresh Produce Drop was only possible due to collaborations with local partners like Des Moines Public Schools and Forklifts of Des Moines.

Of the over 125 groups Eat Greater Des Moines worked with, 80 percent were not and are still not able to order or access food through the Feeding America food bank network or TEFAP, which makes the work Eat Greater Des Moines is doing to partner with trusted community members to get food to individuals and families even more important.

Aubrey is committed to not only making sure individuals and families in Des Moines don't go hungry, but that they also have access to fresh and healthy foods. It's impossible to tell how many people Aubrey's work has affected directly, but I do know that because of her families have and are still able to put delicious, fresh food on their tables. It is an honor to commemorate Aubrey and recognize her as the Iowan of the Week.

TRIBUTE TO MELVIN BORTON

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 6, 2021

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember the life and accomplishments of Melvin Borton. Mel passed from this life on July 16 at the age of 94, having dedicated six decades to the betterment of farmers in Ohio and across this Nation through his skilled leadership with the Ohio Farmers Union and National Farmers Union.

Mel's passion for agriculture began at an early age. He grew up on a family farm, where he helped his brother cultivate everything from tomatoes to wheat. In 1948, four years after his graduation from Chesterfield High School, Mel began a farming operation of his own and joined the Farmers Union.

By the end of the 1960's, Mel pursued a new endeavor: lifting up the voices of his fellow farmers as a National Farmers Union leader. He served as both a regional director and the national director of organization and field services for the National Farmers Union before returning to Ohio to serve as the Ohio Farm Union's director of marketing.

After nearly two decades of service to the Ohio Farm Union, Mel Borton served as the state committee Chairman of the United

States Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency. In this role, he advocated for farmers enrolled in federal farm programs.

Without his efforts, the National Farmers Union and Ohio Farm Union wouldn't be what they are today. In 2013, Mr. Borton's tremendous efforts were recognized by the National Farmers Union as they awarded him its Meritorious Service Award—the top award bestowed by the organization—for his contributions to agriculture, humanity, and the union.

Despite his numerous accolades and accomplishments, Mel Borton was a humble and soft-spoken gentleman. Ungregarious by nature, he cared most about looking out for the most vulnerable among us, recognizing that our communities are only as strong as their weakest link. His vigilance, perseverance, and compassion were palpable during our frequent visits.

Everyone who had the pleasure and privilege of knowing Mel Borton knew that he, above all else, was utterly passionate about agriculture and the plight of small farmers. He made sure others were taken care of before himself and lived a life a true service.

Melvin Borton's legacy will live on forever through those that he touched throughout his life. The great state of Ohio and our Nation are better because of his contributions. To his wife, Linda, his family and friends, we offer our deepest condolences as they mourn the loss of this treasure of a man.

AMY POWELL

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 6, 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Amy Powell for being awarded the 2020 Chamber Leader of the Year by the Arvada Chamber of Commerce.

Amy has served the Arvada Chamber of Commerce with a sense of commitment and engagement over the past few years, including on several committees such as workforce, Leadership KAPS Council as well as presented on a variety of topics.

Amy is also the founder of Well Works, which trains and coaches the construction industry professionals to address unique problems within their industry. She also spent many years at Golden Triangle Construction company where she held several different positions, including director of training and outreach. She earned her B.S. in Construction Management from Colorado State University as well as her Master's in Adult Education and Training.

When describing her job, she says, "I understand that there's the people side of building and the building side of people." She explains that in construction too often the focus is on the building and the money, but not the people. Amy understands the importance of a thriving business community and the power of people and is committed to ensuring that Arvada is a topnotch community. Congratulations to Amy Powell for being recognized as the 2020 Chamber Leader of the Year by the Arvada Chamber of Commerce.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF COMMANDER MICHAEL FILES

HON. LLOYD DOGGETT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 6, 2021

Mr. DOGGETT. Madam Speaker, one of the most important honors we have as Members of Congress is to nominate candidates from a competitive pool of young men and women who want to attend our Nation's elite military academies. Among the first I nominated was Michael Files, a James Bowie High School graduate from Austin, Texas, who sought admission to the United States Naval Academy. A nomination doesn't guarantee admission or success, but Commander Files enjoyed both.

It brings me great satisfaction to know that Commander Files has gone on to do so much on behalf of our Nation, in and out of the uniform. His service in the U.S. Navy, which led him all over world, such as Guam and Japan, earned him several awards such as the 2011 Navy Times Sailor of the Year, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Joint Service Commendation Medal and many others.

In addition to serving in the Armed Forces, Commander Files served his fellow neighbors as a Commissioner for the City of Alexandria Human Rights Commission. During his tenure from 2009 to 2011, Commander Files held public hearings related to housing discrimination and age discrimination in Employment—highlighting his dedication to civil rights. In recent years, Commander Files has led the Navy Talent Acquisition Group in San Antonio where his team recruits high-quality candidates from Texas who are interested in joining the U.S. Navy.

Outside of his uniform, Commander Files is actively involved in the community, volunteering with organizations such as Big Brothers Big Sisters, the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., and the NAACP. Commander Files' exemplary service to America and his local community is emblematic of what makes America a great Nation.

I wish Commander Files the very best as he and his family celebrate his well-deserved retirement.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DR. ROBERT WARD

HON. VAN TAYLOR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 6, 2021

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to recognize and celebrate the life of Dr. Robert "Bob" Ward. Born on July 4, 1933 to Al and Lovera Ward in Huntington, California, Bob was one of six children. He would later graduate from Burbank High School, a school where he would develop his athleticism and deep faith, two traits that would become among his greatest attributes.

Bob would go on to Whitworth University, earning All-Conference honors in both football and track and field while furthering his academic pursuits. Bob would later serve his country as a member of the United States Marine Corps, during which time he was on active duty at Quantico and Camp Pendleton.

While in the service, Bob would many Joyce Ross, his lifelong partner. Following his time in the military, Bob would earn his master's degree at the University of Washington and would begin his impressive teaching and coaching career at both the high school and collegiate levels. Under his leadership, the Fullerton College track team would earn five conference titles and a state championship, leading to Ward's induction into the College's Coaching Hall of Fame.

Always the learner, Bob would seek out new and innovative techniques to push his athletes to the next level. His constant quest for knowledge would lead him to Indiana University, where he earned his Doctorate in Biomechanics. This drive would soon be noticed by the Dallas Cowboys, where over the next 14 years he would become one of the most respected and celebrated strength coaches in the NFL during the notable Landry years.

Continuing his lifelong love of athletic competition, Dr. Ward competed in various Masters Track and Field competitions well into his 80s, earning world records in the 70–74 age group in weightlifting and various pentathlon weight events in track. Bob would co-author several books on sports training and a book on his life journey, *Building the Perfect Star*.

While Bob's professional achievements include an awe-inspiring list of accolades, his greatest achievement was his family. Bob was blessed with two daughters, six grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren, as well as a life-time of partnership with his wife, Joyce.

Now as we recognize Dr. Bob Ward, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in honoring his rich life and legacy.

AVASARALA KANYAKUMARI

HON. RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 6, 2021

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Madam Speaker, today I wish to honor the life and talent of Avasara Kanyakumari, a revered master violinist, composer, and teacher in the Indian Carnatic musical tradition.

Born in the city of Guntur in Andhra Pradesh, India, Kanyakumari began her musical life on the violin at the age of eight. Blessed with an abundance of natural talent and nurtured by her family and dedicated teachers—including the eminent violinist Maestro Ivaturi Vijayeswara Rao—Kanyakumari was soon performing in small concerts and building a reputation as a musical prodigy.

After graduating high school, Kanyakumari moved to Chennai, where she continued her education and her musical career as an accompanist and soloist of great renown, deeply admired by critics and aficionados alike for her technical skill and exquisite musicality.

The Indian Government recognized her talent and contributions to Indian music and culture with the Padma Shri Award in 2015. The following year, Kanyakumari was honored with the Kalaimamani Award from the state of Tamil Nadu, and the prestigious Sangita Kalanidhi Award from the Madras Music Academy.

Kanyakumari is revered for her commitment to cultivating the next generation of Carnatic

musicians. She offers her services without charge, as her way of paying it forward and honoring the contributions made by her teachers to developing her talents. And Kanyakumari is a wonderful musical ambassador, sharing the beauty of the Carnatic tradition with music lovers all over the world. (I was especially moved by a recent rendition of the Star-Spangled Banner on this Fourth of July, performed by Kanyakumari and her student disciples.)

Madam Speaker, I want to recognize the contributions of maestro, guru, and composer Avasara Kanyakumari to Indian music and culture, and the gift of her talent to the millions of devotees of the Carnatic musical tradition.

EPIC EXPERIENCE

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 6, 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Epic Experience for being recognized as the 2020 Non-Profit of the Year by the Arvada Chamber of Commerce.

Epic Experience was founded in 2012 by Nancy Ferro and Abby Staible, after Nancy's eldest son Michael received a testicular cancer diagnosis. This experience led the two of them to establish Epic Experience, an Arvada-based non-profit with the goal of empowering adult cancer survivors to live and thrive beyond cancer. They empower their members by offering workshops and camps to individuals who are dealing with a cancer diagnosis as a way to help cope with the mental and physical ramifications of these diagnoses. These experiences often provide a weeklong trip in the Rocky Mountains and allows patients and survivors a chance to challenge themselves physically, share their experiences with fellow survivors, and find community during a difficult time.

Since their beginning in 2012, Epic Experience has raised over \$2.5 million dollars and helped nearly 5,000 cancer survivors and thrivers. They have seen tremendous success with their program reporting 95 percent of campers having an improvement in their mental health after attending a camp or workshop. When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, Epic Experience demonstrated their resiliency by transforming its traditional in person camping seminars to a virtual setting to protect its immune-compromised population. In addition, Epic Experience offered free online yoga, training, and how-to videos as well as three-day virtual seminars to help maintain the close connections and support the non-profit provides so many.

Epic Experience reflects and embodies the compassion, love, and sense of community that is well-known in Arvada and is so important for cancer survivors. The success of Epic Experience has led to life-changing, positive impacts for so many and given individuals a great quality of life as they survive and thrive beyond cancer. Congratulations to Epic Experience for their hard work and dedication to our community and for receiving the Non-Profit of the Year award from the Arvada Chamber of Commerce.

HONORING TOM FLORES

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 6, 2021

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today along with my colleagues, Mr. RUIZ and Mr. SOTO, to recognize Mr. Tom Flores for his successful career and outstanding achievements in professional football.

Tom Flores was born in Fresno and raised in Sanger, California. He is a son of immigrants who had humbled beginnings working in the agriculture fields of the San Joaquin Valley. He attended Fresno City College, where he played as quarterback for two seasons and then received an academic scholarship to study at the University of the Pacific.

Following his graduation, Flores sought to pursue a career in professional football. For him, like others, it was not easy. He was cut by the Calgary Stampeders of the Canadian Football League in 1958, and then by the Washington Redskins of the National Football League (NFL) in 1959. But that did not stop him: he persisted until his dream became a reality.

In 1960, Flores became the first Hispanic quarterback in American professional football after winning the starting quarterback job with the American Football League's Oakland Raiders. He later played for the Buffalo Bills and the Kansas City Chiefs. He won his first Super Bowl ring in 1969 playing quarterback for the Kansas City Chiefs. After a successful playing career, he retired, following the 1970 season.

Subsequently, Flores served as an assistant coach with the Buffalo Bills and Oakland Raiders. In 1979, he became the Raiders head coach and the first Hispanic head coach in NFL history. Under his leadership, the Raiders won the 1980 Super Bowl XV and 1983 Super Bowl XVIII. Tom Flores has four Super Bowl rings and is one of two individuals that earned that honor as a player, assistant coach, and head coach.

Coach Flores joined the Raiders front office after the 1987 season. A year later, he became President and General Manager of the Seattle Seahawks. In 1992, he returned to the sideline as the head coach of the Seahawks for three seasons. In twelve seasons as a head coach, Flores compiled a career record of 97–87 and an impressive playoff record of 8–3, surpassed only by the legendary coach Vince Lombardi. He later returned to the Raiders, where he spent more than two decades as a radio analyst.

After a successful career in football, both as a player and coach, Flores has used his influence to raise nearly 2 million dollars to support Sanger Unified School District's science, art, and athletics programs through the Tom Flores Foundation. Demonstrating a commitment to giving back to our communities and nation.

Coach Flores was selected to be enshrined as a member of the Class of 2021 for the Pro Football Hall of Fame, an honor well deserved and overdue. He will be the third Raiders Head Coach in the Hall of Fame. The Class of 2021 will be enshrined on Sunday, August 8, 2021, in Canton, Ohio.

Today, he remains active with the Raiders, now in Las Vegas, Nevada. Through his illustrious athletic career and commitment to his